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I Claim:

1. A safety mechanism for a utility lighter, the utility lighter comprising a lighter housing, a lighting rod projecting from the lighter housing, a fuel tank, located within the lighter housing, for holding the fuel, a fuel-release valve being spring loaded so as to be urged into the closed position; a gas tube connected to the valve and extending through the lighting rod, and a conventional piezoelectric unit, said safety mechanism comprising:

a trigger for activating the piezoelectric unit to create a spark, the trigger being slidably mounted in the lighter housing and having a stopper tab;

a cam mechanism having an operable position, a locked position and a hub, the hub having three projecting members, the projecting members being a fuel-release lever, a cam lever, and a return spring, the fuel-release lever, engaging the fuel-release valve, for opening the fuel-release valve, the cam lever, aligned with the stopper tab, for impeding depression of the trigger, the return spring for urging the cam mechanism into the locked position, a cam support pin, projecting from the lighter housing, for mounting the hub;

a safety button having a first end and a second end, the first end protruding through the lighter housing and the second end adjoined to the cam mechanism, as the safety button is depressed the cam mechanism rotates, as the cam mechanism is

rotated the cam lever is moved so that the cam lever is not aligned with the stopper tab and the trigger can be depressed and the fuel-release lever is also moved opening the fuel-release valve, as the safety button is released the return spring urges the cam mechanism into the locked position.

2. The safety mechanism of claim 1, wherein the cam mechanism is comprised of a flexible material.

3. The safety mechanism of claim 1, wherein the second end of the safety button is attached to the cam lever.

4. The safety mechanism of claim 1, wherein the safety button further comprises flanges for limiting upward movement of the safety button.

5. The safety mechanism of claim 1, wherein the trigger is shaped to receive a finger.

6. A safety mechanism for a utility lighter, the utility lighter comprising a lighter housing, a lighting rod projecting

from the lighter housing, a fuel tank, located within the lighter housing, for holding the fuel, a fuel-release valve being spring loaded so as to be urged into the closed position; a gas tube connected to the valve and extending through the lighting rod, and a conventional piezoelectric unit, said safety mechanism comprising:

a trigger for activating the piezoelectric unit to create a spark, the trigger being slidably mounted in the lighter housing and having a stopper tab;

a hub mounted to the lighter housing;

a fuel-release lever having a first end and a second end, the first end being attached to the hub and the second end being engaged to the fuel-release valve, the fuel-release lever having an operable position and an inoperable position, while in the operable position the fuel-release lever activates the fuel-release valve releasing fuel, while in the inoperable position the fuel-release valve is closed and no fuel is released;

a cam lever having a first end and a second end, the first end being attached to the hub and the second end being adjacent to the stopper tab of the trigger, the cam lever having an operable position and a locked position, while the cam lever is in the operable position the trigger cannot be depressed because the cam lever is aligned with the stopper tab;

a return spring for urging the cam lever into the locked position and the fuel-release lever into the nonoperable position;

a safety button having a first end and a second end, the

first end protruding through the lighter housing and the second end adjoined to the cam lever, as the safety button is depressed the cam lever is depressed rotating the hub, as the hub is rotated the fuel-release lever activates the fuel-release valve, as the cam lever is moved the cam lever is not aligned with the stopper tab and the trigger can be depressed, as the safety button is released the return spring urges the cam mechanism into the locked position.

7. The safety mechanism of claim 6, wherein the cam mechanism is comprised of a flexible material.

8. The safety mechanism of claim 6, wherein the second end of the safety button is attached to the cam lever.

9. The safety mechanism of claim 6, wherein the safety button further comprises flanges for limiting upward movement of the safety button.

10. The safety mechanism of claim 6, wherein the trigger is shaped to receive a finger.

11. A safety mechanism for a utility lighter, the utility lighter comprising a lighter housing, a lighting rod projecting from the lighter housing, a fuel tank, located within the lighter housing, for holding the fuel, a fuel-release valve being spring loaded so as to be urged into the closed position; a gas tube connected to the valve and extending through the lighting rod, and a conventional piezoelectric unit, said safety mechanism comprising:

a spring mechanism having a nonoperational position, an operational position, a first portion and a second portion, the first portion locks the trigger when the spring mechanism is in the nonoperational position, the second portion opens the fuel-release valve when the spring mechanism is in the operational position, the spring mechanism being urged into the nonoperational position; and

a safety button for moving the spring mechanism from the nonoperational position to the operational position.

12. The safety mechanism of claim 11, wherein the spring mechanism is comprised of a flexible material.

13. The safety mechanism of claim 11, wherein the safety button is attached to the first portion of the spring mechanism.

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Abstract